MARVEL

94

DEFALCO
FRENZ
BUSCEMA

THE DAUGHTER OF SPIDER-MAN®

SPIDER-GIRL®

OLD SOLDIERS!

The daughter of the original Spider-Man, May "Mayday" Parker has inherited her father's amazing powers. Possessing the proportionate strength, speed, and agility of a spider, as well as the ability to cling to walls, she now follows in his web-lines! Stan Lee presents...

SPIDER-GIRL

PREVIOUSLY

Script, Plot & Pencils
Tom DeFalco & Ron Frenz

Art Finishes
Sal Buscema

Artists Emeritus
Pat Olliffe & Al Williamson

Colorist
Gotham

Letterer
VC's Dave Sharpe

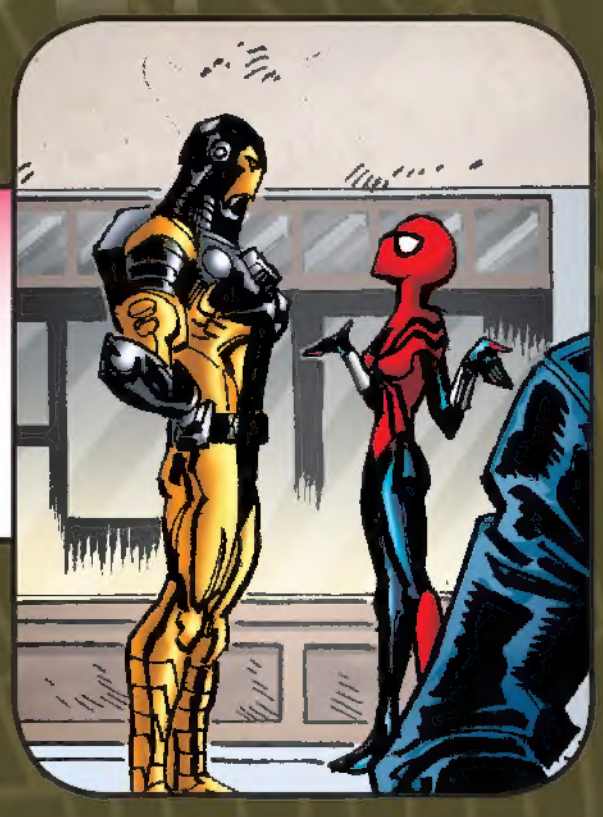
Production
James Taveras

Editor
Molly Lazer

Editor In Chief
Joe Quesada

Publisher
Dan Buckley

After many **Avengers** are injured during a battle with **Loki** and the **Hulk**, the team activates reserve members like **Spider-Girl**, but she disobeys orders and is threatened with expulsion.



She also learns that her friend **Normie Osborn** has bonded with the **Venom** symbiote and has been secretly testing its powers.

Normie's fiancée **Brenda "Raptor" Drago**, a former criminal who agreed to work for a government super-team to avoid prison, is ordered to spy on him.

During a scuffle with **Kaine**, one of **Raptor's** teammates and another former super-criminal, **Spider-Girl** witnesses her own death.

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Your name is *May "Mayday" Parker.*

You are the daughter of *Spider-Man,* and you see it every time you close your eyes.

Like a movie on an endless loop--

--the razor-sharp claws keep ripping into your heart.

Kaine said you experienced a ***precognitive flash***--*a way of seeing the future!*

Yeah, *riiiiiiiight!*

If he could really predict events--

--he'd score the *lottery.*

Kaine is playing you, girl!

This has to be some kind of con job.

It can't be real!

It just *can't be!*

bebe

The night passes far too slowly. Minutes feel like hours, and hours extend for years. You pray for morning to arrive, but it will only bring a new nightmare...

OLD SOLDIERS

The assassin is supposed to be a member of some crazy crime cult called the *Scriers.*

What's their beef?

(Aside from having to wear that stupid fright mask and those ridiculous robes!)

There's no reason for them to target you.

Absolutely none!

And *yet...*

That Scrier *killed* you!

You felt the *shock* of the blow.

The searing *pain* of the claws.

According to Kaine, the only way you can definitely save yourself--

--is to stop being *Spider-Girl.*

Of course, you could always go with *Plan B--*

--find out everything you can about the Scriers--

--and kick their pasty butts!

You head down to the kitchen to pump your dad for info, but it looks like ***Cousin Kristy*** has the floor.

Wait until you taste these crepes.

Got the recipe while I was backpacking through France.

Met this absolutely *marvelous*--by the way, you're out of eggs.

Butter, too.

And--*FYI*--I prefer whole milk to skim.

DAILY BUGLE

Sale

Where was I? *Oh, yes!* He had the most *gorgeous*--do you have a crepe pan?

Couldn't find it.

Really? Looks like you found every other pan I own.

Cooking is an art to me--*an adventure!*

Speaking of adventure, did I tell you I went mountain climbing last year with the *cutest*--care for a *taste*, hotshot?

Uhhhh...

Thanks...but I've gotta get to school.

Ohmygoodness! Just remembered I'm starting my new job at ***Osborn Chemical*** today.

Gotta run. Normie's expecting me.

B-but...

Be a dear, Mary Jane, and turn off the burners.

M-my poor kitchen.

How's about I take you and Ben *out* for breakfast?

Hoo-boy! Kristy doesn't realize that *Normie* has been secretly harboring the ***Venom symbiote.*** Should you warn *her*--

--or the *symbiote*?

You can't be *serious!*

Dad, you quit being ***Ant-Man*** years ago. Why come back now?

It was ***Tony Stark's*** idea, Cassie... or should I call you ***Stinger*** at the office?

Anyway, Tony heard the ***Avengers*** could use some help, and he gathered a couple of us old soldiers.

He even outfitted ***Hawkeye*** with a special pair of goggles to improve his vision.

Look, I appreciate the gesture...but you guys haven't been active for years.

This is so very COOOOOL!

I'm actually training with ***Hawkeye*** and the ***Scarlet Witch.***

Please try to concentrate on the exercise, ***J2.***

My reflexes are not what they once were, and I must sharpen my ability to alter probabilities.

Cassie Lang, I would have thought you'd be more supportive.

Has it even occurred to you that your old man is doing what he thinks is *right?*

Daddy...*Please!* You know I love you. I just don't want you to get hurt.

What exactly is **Stark** *trying to prove?*

Absolutely nothing.

He merely wants to help the ***Avengers*** during their time of need.

*I know our "**father**" a little better than that.*

*My programming is based on his encephalograms, **remember?***

*The man's a control freak. Something you should know better than most, **Jim.***

Please don't call me that.

I am no longer "*Jim.*"

And my relationship with Stark--

--is absolutely *none* of your business.

We need to assemble the team. We have a mission to discuss.

Fine.

Just remember who's in charge here.

I can never forget.

The guy's out of his ever-lovin' mind.

MIDTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

He's acting crazy, Courtney.

It's like he doesn't care if he lives or dies.

Calm down, Moosie! He's just trying to do the best he can.

Who're we talking about, guys?

It's my dad. He's finally started his cancer treatments, but I think he's still in denial.

Instead of going on sick leave, he's still reporting for work at the firehouse.

I just can't seem to convince him to do the smart thing and concentrate on getting better.

You have to give him time, Moose.

This is all new to him, and he's still trying to find his way.

RRRRRRRRING!

C'mon, let me walk you to class.

I-it just isn't fair!

Catch you guys later.

S'ironic, but they're probably haunted by the same fears every time you don your webs.

You could save them a mountain of grief if you just chucked the whole *Spider-Girl* thing--

--especially with this *Scrier* mess hanging over your head.

Poor Moose! If anything happened to your parents--!

Yeah, that would be the *smart* choice--

--but not the *right* one.

Mr. Stark has learned of a problem at *Osborn Chemical.*

According to some recently dismissed employees, *Norman Osborn*--the grandson of the original *Green Goblin*--is now building super-weapons and is planning a return to crime.

Why does this concern us? We're *Avengers*...not cops.

Perhaps Tony thinks we should be more proactive.

Yeah, well, I heard the same rumors and ordered *Spider-Girl* to investigate.

Ahem I've had dealings with your young web-swinger, and I think we should gather our own intelligence.

Would you do the honors, Ant-Man?

Be my pleasure!

Wait! We don't have the right to spy on private citizens.

But *Mainframe's* protest goes unheeded--

--as *Scott Lang's* cybernetic helmet sends out a message--

--that is quickly transmitted to countless ants--

--who form a citywide communication system.

You've put me in a *no-win* situation, Normie...

OSBO
CHEM

Brenda, my dear, how can you say *that* to me? You know how much I love you.

I would never do such a thing to you.

Maybe not intentionally, but the results are the same.

You know that I agreed to work for ***Special Agent Weadon*** to avoid prison.

Well, he somehow got wind of all the weapons you've been building for the ***Green Goblin*** here, and he wants me to spy on you.

What a slimeball!

The man's just doing his job, Phil. It isn't personal.

How can you be so calm?

He's going to expect a full report, and I don't know what to say.

I suggest the *truth.*

Tell him I've been doing my civic duty by upgrading the weaponry for one of this city's finest new crime-fighters.

W-what about the *other* thing--?

Oh, you mean the ***Venom symbiote--?***

We can see how that *could* be problematic.

However, we have a plan that may free you from Weadon's control.

The ants are reporting back and--*oh, man!*

Osborn may be an even bigger *threat* than we thought.

Swell!

Google didn't turn up anything useful on the Scriers--no big surprise there!

The Avengers could probably help.

ZEEEEE

Too bad you're still on the outs with--

Hello--?

Stinger! You're not going to believe this, but I was just thinking about you.

I'm calling to make sure you're all right.

The Osborn investigation took a serious turn.

We've just learned that the Venom Symbiote may be controlling him, and we've sent a team to apprehend him.

Oh, no!

NO!

You've been keeping this secret for weeks.

You've lied to your parents...to the Avengers...to everyone!

And you don't even know if Normie or the creature is in charge.

Maybe you should just butt out and let the Avengers take over.

No, you've got to warn your friend, and since he isn't answering his cell phone that means you have to--

Got a minute, May? I've been looking all over for you.
Actually, no.
I'm in a bit of a rush.
This won't take long-- *promise!*
I need to talk to you about my dad.
Courtney thinks I should back off and just let him do his thing.
I want your opinion.
You always give me such good advice.
Look, Moose, I really gotta go...but I agree with Court.
Your dad has to live his own *life* on his own *terms*.
But he isn't being *smart* about it.
The *smart* choice isn't always the *right* one.
We'll talk later. I'll call you as soon as I'm free.
Okay, and... *uhhhh*...
Thanks.
You've already given me *plenty* to chew over.
W-why does my boyfriend listen to May... but not me?

Uhhhh, Norm-- Mr. Osborn? Hate to be a bother, but you have visitors.

I'm in a meeting, Kristy.

Tell them to schedule another appointment.

Uhhhhh...yes... well...you should really come out here.

These aren't the kind of people you brush off.

What seems to be the-- AHHHH!

How can I be of service to you fine gentlemen and lady?

Hey, I'm still new at this whole enhanced vision thing, but do any of you guys see what Brother Hawkeye does?

Affirmative. My sensors detect--

"--an alien life-form that has molded itself to the suspect's body."

Don't move, Osborn! We have reason to suspect that you're harboring the Venom symbiote.

That's quite the accusation. I propose you take it up with my legal team.

In the meantime, I have committed no crimes, so--if you're through bullying my executive assistant--please show yourselves out.

The man's right, Jim. We should go.

That creature is responsible for a string of murders, you smarmy, over-privileged punk.

We're not leaving without it.

Be careful! You don't want to--

Oh, noooooo!

SPWAKOW!

Wonderful!

Now that you're web-swinging high above the city, you're questioning the wisdom of your choices.

You're completely exposed up here.

What's to stop a *Scrier* from suddenly leaping out at you and--

HEY!

How's about a courtesy "honk" when you cut into someone's lane?

Uhhhh, you... Fred...or *whatever* you call yourself.

You haven't seen the ***Avengers*** around here, have you?

No time to chat, Spider-Girl.

We're already engaged in battle--

--and *YOU* aren't invited!

Ahhhh, there's no need to be so rude.

You're too late, girl--

--it's *party time!*

You may be an innocent *victim*, Osborn.

A *pawn* of the symbiote.

But, knowing your family history, I suspect the *worst.*

Lucky for me, I don't live for your approval.

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

Cool *battle cry*-- but we're all on the same side here.

No, Goblin-- *they want to hurt Normie!*

This is totally *whack!* We've got no business fighting these guys.

Osborn was just defending himself.

Out of the mouths of babes!

J2, I take back every bad thing I've ever said to you. You're the only one talking sense.

Stand down, Avengers!

I can't believe I'm actually saying this, but I think we should all take a cue from *Mainframe*--

--and try to get *along!*

Are you actually trying to protect this *monster?*

NO...she's trying TO save *YOU*, cape man.

Do not interfere, Spider-Girl! This creature must be subdued.

But Mainframe ordered you to--

I answer to a HIGHER authority.

Oh, man! What *hit* me--?!

Scarlet Witch, keep Spider-Girl off my back.

Consider it done, my mysterious friend!

I *remember* now. I was standing on the big guy's shoulder and one of these clowns *sandbagged* me--

--so I'll RETURN the favor!

THWAKKK!

Ant-Man--*No!* You need to get hold of yourself. We're supposed to be a team.

-UFFFT-

Am I missing something? The *Avengers* that I know always act like the *good guys.*

You dare to lecture us with a possible murderer in your midst?

Do not force me to cast a hex and--*NO!*

SHRAKAZAPP!

C-creature must be subdued.

K-keep Spider-Girl off my back.

Hey, dude-- you okay?

I didn't realize you were still standing behind me when I dodged that hex thingee.

JZIKIZZZZ

C-creature must be subdued.

K-keep Spider-Girl off my back.

What the--?!

SHKRAAAK!

Wanda...

...what have you done?

Creature must be SUBDUED!

Keep SPIDER-GIRL off my back!

You seem to be experiencing some kind of malfunction, Jim.

How can I help you?

Be careful, Mainframe! He's about to--

BEEEESHKOW!

Don't--

--CALL--

--ME--

--JIM!

Jim Rhodes is DEAD!

Murdered by TONY STARK!

ENGINE CO 28

Y-you got a minute--?

Maurice! What are you doing down here, son?

Something happen to one of your brothers? Has Al been climbing on that--

Everybody's *okay*, Dad. I just wanted to see you.

You're not gonna harp on the *sick leave* again?

Nope, not this time. Not anymore. I just wanted to apologize for all the grief I've been giving you.

You got enough on your mind without me adding to it.

What's the deal, Mo? You never backed off an argument in your life.

I'm just trying to say...

...I love you, Dad.

C'mere, you!

That's my boy!

RRRN!! RRRN!! RRRN!!

W-what's with the weird alarm?

A bunch of capes must be clowning around, and they need *New York's Bravest* to clean up the mess.

First time Mainframe's cool to me, and you clobber his robot butt.

Luckily, he's got plenty more.

Creature must be *subdued.*

Keep *Spider-Girl* off my back.

Jim Rhodes is *dead!*

Tony Stark murdered *me!*

Whoa! Run that last line by me again?

Stark did *what* to you?

Tony Stark *MURDERED* me!

I'll catch you, JZ!

Lady, no! That's not a good--

THWAK!

-Uggghh-

THWONK!

BZZZZZZZ!

Creature must be *subdued.*

Keep *Spider-Girl* off my back.

I always thought Stark's bodyguard was human, but he's acting like some kind of robot with a gear loose.

Whatever, Hawkeye!

Put him down before he kills someone.

Love the way you're distracting him with those bugs.

Glad you didn't sic'em on me.

Sorry about that sucker punch, pal.

That's the biz, dude!

Some team we are! Stark never should have sent us out without briefing us on his pal here.

Why do you hesitate?

I don't know how much punishment the guy can take, and he's moving too fast for my goggles to--

ULLLP

H-he must have tracked Hawk by the sound of his voice!

KWAKK-H

Tony Stark *MURDERED* me!

SKAHHHHHHH

PWOOOOM!

Keep *Spider-Girl* off my back.

Creature must be *subdued.*

Creature must be SUBDUED.

Keep SPIDER-GIRL off my back.

Tony Stark MURDERED me!

Uhhhh, Normie--?

This guy just took out the *Avengers*, the *Green Goblin* and *Raptor* in a matter of seconds.

Let's be smart and *run away*.

We like that plan.

Like it a whole lot.

Pity we're not *runners*.

Yeah...

...it's a pity.

A real pity.

To Be Continued!

MAYDAY'S MAILBOX

Amazing Friends:
This book is so continually good I don't know where to start praising it, but issue #91 is as fine a place as any since it takes us to the ground level of May's familiar but offbeat world. After commuting to the cosmos, our heroine comes back to the same old New York of eccentric street protesters and pretentious fashion posers, with the stressed school and family life that makes this comic so true for so many readers--an everyday reality whose conflicts and coincidences are as absurd in their way as the Fantastic Five's spacey world is bizarre in its. Tom and Ron's hip sensibility and humorous touch hit a high note in this affectionate send-up of current controversies and "costume" drama. Dependably inspired--but never to be taken for granted; happy upcoming hundredth, and hopefully countless more.

Adam McGovern
Mount Tabor, NJ

To 100 and beyond, Adam!

Dear Tom and Ron,

Thank you for bringing in a Kingsley! I was buggin' Ron two years ago at the Philadelphia comic book convention to bring a Hobgoblin into the Spider-Girl picture and it looks like the way is finally being paved! I'm psyched! I also wanted to congratulate you (and we fans) for getting this book to last so long. Not only is it Marvel's longest running series featuring a female character, but I also notice it's the only book in a very long time that's made it to a 100th issue. Of all the good books released in the late 90's, and early 2000's, who'd have thought Spider-Girl would hang in so long? Here's hoping for another hundred issues! Just one critique: With a lot going on in one issue, it seems to take a very long time for certain plot threads to tie up. Maybe it's time to start doing Spider-Girl Annuals, in the old school Marvel Annual fashion. The book echos the early years of the Lee/Ditko/Romita era flawlessly, so I think old fashioned annuals would be very doable.

George Mink
Philadelphia, PA

To the SPIDER-GIRL creative team:

I am a 30 year old man who has been collecting comics on and off since 1981, and this is the FIRST letter that I have written to any comic book. I had stopped collecting in the early 90s, picked it up again during the Spider-Man Clone Saga, and stopped again in 1997 after the death of Ben Reilly. I was always upset that Marvel didn't give Ben the courtesy that DC gave Jason Todd in the 1980s when they let the fans call in to decide the character's fate.

Anyway, I didn't plan on buying another comic again, until two years ago when I first read a SPIDER-GIRL comic. This is exactly the type of comic that got me into collecting over 20 years ago! And after reading issue #91, I felt compelled to write. This was a story that held my interest from beginning to end and featured references to the past while continuing to keep the storyline moving forward. These are the type of stories that made me become a monthly subscriber in the first place. However, I do have a request--give us more Reilly Tyne! Darkdevil has been missing in the issues as of late and that is really disappointing. You were building up so much suspense between issues #82-84 that I was certain you were setting us for something huge. I had suspected that May or Peter would learn of Reilly's origins, but it was never resolved. And after years of reading SPIDER-GIRL, I'm still waiting for him to drop the bombshell on May and her family. Hopefully, the truth will be fleshed out at issue #100. That would be…what else, Amazing!!

Thank you for bringing me back into comics!

Marcus Mastin
Watertown, NY

You're very welcome, Marcus. You can thank us by introducing all your friends, co-workers and family to our friendly neighborhood web-stunner!

Dear Tom, Ron, Sal, Molly, Dan, Joe and Jeff,

I saw the letter requesting an appearance by Power Pack in SPIDER-GIRL #91 and vote a resounding yes! It would be kind of ironic if some of the Power Pack members ended up becoming mentor figures to May considering how the original Spidey briefly mentored Alex and Jack when they were kids.

I'd also like an appearance by Shadowcat (and her pal Lockheed) if that's possible too.

Michael Jung

Hhhhhmmm!

Hey Guys and Gals,

It's nice to hear a mention of the name Smythe in SPIDER-GIRL #91. I don't think Smythe has been handled very well in the main Spidey books since *The Invasion of The Spider-Slayers*.

Now let's move on to issue #92. I must be honest and say I liked this issue much more than the last. I'm very happy with the way the Normie subplot is progressing. I'm also proud of May for standing up for herself to Mainframe. Even though he took her membership card away, he couldn't convince May that she hadn't done the right thing. There's a girl who knows how to stand up to peer pressure!

John Dillon
Sedalia, MO

Her last name is Parker!

Dear Tom, Ron, Sal and Molly,

I've just got done reading SPIDER-GIRL #90-91, and what a blast they were! #90 had a lot of great gags, my favorite two being the homage to Millie the Model, paper doll cut-out fashions and all (a big thumbs up to the three PS 124 students in Brooklyn for the groovy designs) and the itsy-bitsy spider scene

#91 was a lot of fun too, I never guessed that Mary Jane was the brains behind the Spider Shoppe. One thing doesn't add up though, if Mary Jane designed all of the merchandise then why was she so horrified with May's attire when she started wearing the black costume?

Mary Jane's choice of costume was a neat reference to the original Spider-Man costume in AMAZING FANTASY #15, 1962, with the big under-arm webbing and the blue spider on the back (changed to red as early as THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1) - although if it was an exact replica of the original the legs on the front black spider logo would all point downwards and the mask would be attached to the main costume like a hood, but that's enough nitpicking from me!

The subplot with Normie Osborn's descent into darkness has been keeping me in suspense, but the everyday life subplots have dried up a little lately. It was fun seeing more of May's gal pals in #91, especially Felicity Hardy. Speaking of May's friends, will we be seeing Jimmy Yama again any time soon? He seems to have disappeared off the face of the planet.

Lee Hiley
Sheffield, England

Jimmy seems to be hanging around with a new crowd these days, but we're sure that we haven't seen the last of him.

Dear Spider-Gang,

The last few issues of SPIDER-GIRL have been very enjoyable. I also found SPIDER-MAN FAMILY SPECIAL a lot of fun. I've never actually read Arana's book before, but I found her kind of cool. Is there any chance that we will see her and her sidekick anytime soon in the book? Maybe have her go up against The Black Tarantula? Anyways, the whole Normie/symbiote plot line has me both scratching my head and dying from suspense. I can't wait to see how everything turns out.

Sean Foley
Humble, Texas

Arana appears in her very own monthly title, Sean…which is on sale at finer comic book stores everywhere!

Dear Sirs,

I'm a big fan of Spider-Girl and would like to congratulate you all, especially Tom DeFalco, for crafting such a wonderful new character. The nice thing is that finally we have it all--a really up-to-date, year 2000 character though enriched with a style that goes back to the best eras of comic books (IMO, that of the sixties and the seventies.) I mean that it's so nice to see again a comic book where there is a strong attention to important values like human life, peace, the family...Guys, you managed to craft something true and alive! Something which gives good feelings and, in a sense, provides positive messages and, in the long run, can educate people. I had kind of lost hope to see again a comic book where killing people and violence were not considered as "normal." And to find a comic character where the sense of responsibility, the importance of friendship, and people understanding and loving each other were so central. I believe it's very important to keep Mr. DeFalco as sole author driving the evolution of this great comic book, for he's crafting a sheer masterpiece. I love his attention to real life's problems, like teenage dating violence, and to concepts like breaking the circle of violence... I really hope you will never separate the creature from his creator! Look what happened to Thanos... It's because of artists like Mr. DeFalco that Marvel's still the very best!

Vincenzo DeFlorio

You're very kind and insightful, Vincenzo! (And your check is in the mail!)

Thanks for being there, everyone!

Tom D.

The secret of *Tony Stark's bodyguard* is finally revealed!

MOLLY LAZER
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF